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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
20 March-28 April 2000

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretary-General

Duration and venue of the session

1. The fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 20 March to 28 April 2000. The first meeting will be convened at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 20 March 2000.

Provisional agenda

2. The provisional agenda, prepared in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, is reproduced below.

Inter-sessional and pre-sessional working groups

3. The fifty-sixth session of the Commission is preceded by meetings of nine working groups in connection with the following items:

(a) Item 7: An open-ended working group established to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development (Commission resolution1998/72, Economic and Social Council decision 1998/269) is scheduled to meet from 13 to 17 December 1999.

(b) Item 9 (b): The Working Group on Situations, composed of five members of the Commission, is scheduled to meet from 21 to 25 February 2000 to examine situations referred to the Commission by the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970 (Commission resolution 1990/55, Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/41);

(c) Item 10: An open-ended working group established to elaborate policy guidelines on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights (Commission decision 1999/104, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/251) is scheduled to meet from 28 February to 10 March 2000;

(d) Item 11 (a): An open-ended working group established to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Commission resolution 1999/30, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/237) met from 4 to 15 October 1999;

(e) Item 13: An open-ended working group for the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflicts (Commission resolution 1999/80, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/249) is scheduled to meet from 10 to 21 January 2000;

(f) Item 13: An open-ended working group for the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Commission resolution 1999/80, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/249) is scheduled to meet from 24 January to 4 February 2000;

(g) Item 15: An open-ended working group established to elaborate a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (Commission resolution 1999/50, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/240) met from 18 to 29 October 1999;

(h) Item 15: An open-ended working group established to elaborate and consider further proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system (Commission resolution 1999/52, Economic and Social Council decision 1999/242) is scheduled to meet from 14 to 23 February 2000;

(i) Item 20: An open-ended working group on enhancing the effectiveness of the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights (statement made by the Chairperson of the Commission on 29 April 1999; Economic and Social Council decision 1999/256) is scheduled to meet from 27 September to 1 October 1999, from 6 to 10 December 1999 and from 7 to 11 February 2000.

4. Any decisions and resolutions affecting the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission that may be adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session will be brought to the attention of the Commission in an addendum to the present document. The annotations to the items listed in the provisional agenda will also be issued in an addendum.

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Organization of the work of the session.

4. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights.

5. The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation.

6. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination.

7. The right to development.

8. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine.

9. Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, including:

   (a) Question of human rights in Cyprus;

   (b) Procedure established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII).

10. Economic, social and cultural rights.

11. Civil and political rights, including the questions of:

   (a) Torture and detention;

   (b) Disappearances and summary executions;

   (c) Freedom of expression;

   (d) Independence of the judiciary, administration of justice, impunity;

   (e) Religious intolerance;

   (f) States of emergency;

   (g) Conscientious objection to military service.

12. Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective:

    (a) Violence against women.

13. Rights of the child.

14. Specific groups and individuals:

    (a) Migrant workers;

    (b) Minorities;

    (c) Mass exoduses and displaced persons;

    (d) Other vulnerable groups and individuals.

15. Indigenous issues.

16. Report of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights:

    (a) Report and draft decisions;

    (b) Election of members.

17. Promotion and protection of human rights:

    (a) Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights;

    (b) Human rights defenders;

    (c) Information and education;

    (d) Science and environment.

18. Effective functioning of human rights mechanisms:

    (a) Treaty bodies;

    (b) National institutions and regional arrangements;

    (c) Adaptation and strengthening of the United Nations machinery for human rights.

19. Advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights.

20. Rationalization of the work of the Commission.

21. (a) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission;

(b) Report to the Economic and Social Council on the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.